

HB 467 -- PUBLIC WATER FLUORIDATION

SPONSOR: Lichtenegger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources by a vote of 18 to 0.

This bill requires any public water system or public water supply district intending to permanently cease fluoridation of its water supply to notify the departments of Natural Resources and Health and Senior Services and its customers of its intentions at least 30 days before any vote on the matter. The public water system or public water supply district must notify its customers by mail at least 30 days before any meeting at which the vote will occur.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that many small communities are discontinuing fluoridation of the public drinking water due to budget concerns, but are not notifying customers of the change. Fluoride helps promote oral health, and the bill will make water customers aware of changes in the amount of fluoride provided by the water supply.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lichtenegger; Missouri Coalition for Oral Health; and Dr. JC Standlee, Missouri Dental Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.